Medical benefit for KVS pensioners

*471. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pensioners of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan who have not been beneficiaries of CGHS, are not being paid a sum of rupees 100/- p.m., which their counterparts in Ministries and Departments of Central Government are getting; and

(b) if so, the rationale, if any thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is an autonomous body and employees of autonomous organizations are not treated as Central Government employees. As such the pensioners of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan are not covered under the Central Government Health Scheme and so are not entitled for any benefit including the fixed medical allowance of Rs. 100/- per month available under the same scheme.

Decontrol of Dairy Sector

*472. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are planning to decontrol the dairy sector, to enable it to attract private investment;

(b) if so, whether this would help in increasing the quality of milk production and fetching better remunerative prices to farmers;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has studied the problems being faced by this sector and has recommended, in its Tenth Five Year Plan document, the need to decontrol the sector; and

(d) if so, by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government of India has already amended the Milk and Milk Product Order (MMPO) 1992 with the modification that the provisions relating to assigning milk shed has been done away with and the registration is required from the quality and food safety point of view. This would help in increasing the quality of milk production and fetching farmers remunerative price.

Planning Commission in its deliberations and others from time to time recommended measures for removal of restrictions in MMPO.

Taking in view all suggestions in this regard the Government of India notified the Milk and Milk Product (amendment) Order, 2002 on 26th March, 2002.

Franchises of foreign degree granting institutions

*473. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC is taking any step to regulate franchises of foreign degree granting institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to control private funding of higher education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission has framed draft Regulations for entry into and operation of foreign universities/ educational institutions in India. The draft Regulations are under consideration of the Government.

(c) Certain policy guidelines have been enunciated by the Government to ensure a fair fee structure in the Private Unaided Educational Institutions imparting Higher and technical Education including Management Education. UGC has also notified the Regulations to regulate admission and levy of fees in private unaided professional educational institutions, self-financing deemed universities and joint venture universities.

Spreading Sanskrit through electronic media

*474. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister had outlined the ultimate goal of easy-to-learn Sanskrit programme, at the recently held meeting of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan;

(b) if so, the details of the ways to achieve the goal;